

# ECCC



## El Cerrito Community Newsletter

*Volume Six*

*Number 10*

*September, 2009*



### Last Chance to Sign Up for ECCC's Community Garage Sale

Be part of the El Cerrito's Community's largest garage sale on **Saturday, September 19, 2009**. For \$8.00, you get a large ad placed in the San Diego Union the day before (Friday) and on the day of the sale. Directional signs will be placed along the Boulevard and on individual streets. Maps will be available (on both sides of the Boulevard) to buyers showing the items you have for sale with your street address. Items for sale. We ask that your items for sale are placed out by 8:00 am and you can go as long as you like – although most buyers taper off by 12 noon.

**The deadline for entries is Friday, September 11, 2009.** Just mail your checks for \$8.00, made out to the ECCC and send to P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268, with your name, address and a list of items for sale. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept applications after this deadline, as it takes time to organize this event.

### New Format for Newsletter

As you will notice we have changed the format of the newsletter! We've widened the margins and put the notice of the monthly community meeting on the first page – to the right of the logo. (Its old spot was the right hand corner – upper right on the last page of the newsletter.) We've also moved the various community meetings, CACC, PAC, Eastern Area, etc., to the bottom of the third page. This leaves the last page of the newsletter free.

The Board of Directors' felt that, in these difficult economic times, we should attempt to pay for the newsletter (approximately \$170) per month by using the last page for advertising. Rolando and Redwood Village advertise very successfully in their respective newsletters.

### Neighborhood Meeting – at – Blessed Sacrament Church

**Thursday, September 17, 2009**

**7:00 p.m. School Library**

**El Cajon Boulevard at El Cerrito Drive**

**Note: The School Library is on the north side of the parking lot.**

### Thursday, September 17, 2009 ECCC's Monthly Meeting

Do you have a party house, too many renters in one property on your street, or cars parked on the lawn? Come and hear what this month's ECCC's Guest Speaker has to say. Ann Cottrell, Chairman, Code Enforcement/Nuisance Rental Properties Committee of the College Area Community Council will update us on what is happening with nuisance properties and code enforcement in the College Area. There will be time for questions/answers.

Community Relations Officers will also be available to update us on what is happening within our community and the City of San Diego. Both Officer Dean Thomas and Luis Roman are there to assistance you together with Councilmember Marti Emerald's Field Representative, Cynthia Harris.

### The ECCC's August, 2009 Potluck & Silent Auction

Oh what a wonderful success our meeting turned out to be!! All of the hard work & attention to detail paid off. Our newest Board member, Justin Hawks, as Social Director, did a stellar job procuring supplies, lugging everything and storing supplies in his garage. To all of our Community Members who helped with the set-up and tearing down the Board would just like to say ....**YOU ROCK! Thanks for all your work in making this event a success.**

San Diego Desserts donated the tray of delicious brownies and Fatte's Pizza gave us a discount on the two pizza pies. All the different dishes brought by the Members we're **FANTASTIC**. What a feed!

**The Silent Auction** was really fun – and folks went home with treasures; especially Mrs. Peacock who was highest bidder on the two Baby Buggies that she won for two special little girls!

**The 50/50 Raffle** was very exciting as folks anticipated winning half of the pot. Jan Riley was the big winner. Lucky girl!

We had approximately six new members join. That was the biggest success of the event to the Board of Directors way of thinking! Residents have an important mechanism available to them to have their voices/opinions heard - via the ECCC.

**Expenses:**

Costco	92.14
Smart & Final	6.94
Coffee – Jan	6.00
	105.08

**Gross Income:**

Donation	133.58
50/50 Raffle	43.00
	176.58

**Net Income:**

176.58 gross income
105.98 Minus expenses
<b>71.50 profit for the newsletter!!</b>

**YEAH!!**

**New Community Relations Officer**

We have a new community relations officer for the south side of El Cajon Boulevard. He is:

**Luis A. Roman**

"Louie"

Community Relations Officer (820s) & Facilities

Mid-City Division

4310 Landis Street, MS-785

San Diego, CA. 92105

Desk: (619) 516-3038

Fax: (619) 516-3058

[lroman@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:lroman@pd.sandiego.gov)

**ECCC Liaison/Representative to Police  
Advisory Board**

Jan Riley will be the ECCC representative to the Police Advisory Board and she and Carl Luster will meet with Captain McKinney at the Mid-City Sub-station on Monday, Sep 28th at 6:00 pm.

**New Landscaping On the North Side of  
University Avenue between 58<sup>th</sup> & 60<sup>th</sup> Streets.**

A presentation, on new landscaping proposed by the owners of the Hillside Gardens rental properties, on the north side of University Avenue, was given by Mr. Gerry Banuelos of David Reed, Landscape Architects. The following letter was sent to David Reed by the ECCC Board of Directors:

"Thank you for your presentation at the August 20 El Cerrito Community Council Pot Luck Dinner and for informing the residents of El Cerrito about your firm's design for landscaping along the north side of University Avenue between 58<sup>th</sup> Street and 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

The residents at that night's dinner seemed very pleased that Hillside Garden Apartments is taking steps to improve this barren landscape strip. At least one resident also suggested that the project should include improved pedestrian access to the bus stop in the middle of the block.

Based on the community's response on August 20, the Board of Directors of the ECCC supports the landscape improvements that Hillside Garden Apartments is funding, with the inclusion of improved pedestrian access to the bus stop on this block, either as part of this project or in conjunction with the appropriate government agencies. We encourage you to seek additional funding for your enhanced plan."

**Read the ECCC Newsletter Online**

Thanks to Councilmember Marti Emerald and her staff for posting this newsletter on the El Cerrito page of the District 7 website:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/neighborhoods/elcerrito.shtml>

**Newsletter Donations**

The ECCC received donations totaling \$75.00 in August from our anonymous donors. Dawn Isaac on Austin donated \$15.00. The ECCC is appreciative of all the donations we receive and asks you to keep those donations coming in as it allows us to print the newsletter and deliver it to your front door.

**El Cerrito Neighborhood Patrol**

Update by: **Patti Saraniero**

Residents of Baja Drive have seen a maroon/burgundy 4-door sedan (maybe a Honda?) driving slowly down their street appearing to case homes. The driver is a young male with light brown skin and an elongated face. This is a very similar description to a car and driver seen near the residential burglaries near 55th & Montezuma in the last few weeks. He has been seen in the middle of the day (most recently on Monday at noon). As you are driving through the neighborhood please remain attentive to cars that match this description.

*If you see a suspicious car matching this description get the license plate (or as much as you can) and immediately call the SDPD at 531-2000.*

This guy appears to be working his way slowly through the College Area. We can help stop him by keeping our eyes open. We know it is hot and the heat will continue for several weeks, but please be careful with open windows and doors.

**Officer Dean Thomas** has organized a SDSU Party/Rush detail scheduled for Sept. 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th. The command post will be on the northeast corner of College/Montezuma from 5:00pm to 3:00am. I stopped by last night while on patrol and it was amazing – there was a huge police presence and a number of patrol cars patrolling the neighborhood all evening. The ECC would

*El Cerrito Community Council, P.O. Box 151268, San Diego, CA 92175-1268. (ECCC@cox.net) 619-287-2460*

like to thank the SDPD for addressing the party issue in the College Area. We all appreciate the great work they do on our behalf. Thanks to everyone for your contributions in keeping our community a safe one. Patti ((619) 286-9529, e-mail: [ecpartrol@gmail.com](mailto:ecpartrol@gmail.com)

**Stolen Dogs:** There's been a rumor circulating throughout the community that small pedigree dogs are being taken from their owner's back yards and presumably being sold. We checked with CRO Luis Roman and that is what he told us: "I came up with nothing for the El Cerrito Community area in the past 2 months; so it doesn't look a trend or a series for that matter. However, if anyone has a dog stolen, they need to make a report to the SDPD so we can produce statistics. The only dog stolen was in the Oak Park Area. The other was a Parrot."

### **Crossroads PAC Recommends Ending Centerpoint Development Agreement with Redevelopment Agency**

At its August 27 meeting the Crossroads Project Area Committee (PAC) voted to recommend terminating the city redevelopment agency's development agreement with Douglas-Wilson, the developer for the Centerpoint project at 63rd Street and El Cajon Boulevard. Douglas-Wilson's representative, David Kiefer, announced at the July 23 meeting that it is seeking to terminate its agreement with the city's redevelopment agency. *The developer retains the right to build the project as approved, even without the Redevelopment Agency's participation in funding.*

**Centerpoint Cleanup & Maintenance:** Douglas-Wilson has removed the rubble that has sat on the site since the former shopping center was demolished. The developer is also contracting with the Alpha Project for site maintenance.

**Sidewalk Improvements:** The Project Area Committee voted to recommend using a combination of redevelopment funds from the College Area Business Improvement District to repair, replace, and install sidewalks along El Cajon Boulevard (from 54th Street to 73rd. Street).

Next PAC Meeting: October 28 at 6:30m at the College Ave. Baptist Church. No Meeting in September. The Crossroads Redevelopment PAC meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30pm on the 3rd floor of the College Avenue Baptist Church Visitor Center at 4747 College Avenue. For More information, visit the Cross Roads Redevelopment website:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency/crossroads.shtml>

### **60th Street Canyon Sewer Project Update**

By Rich Ingardia ([ringardi@yahoo.com](mailto:ringardi@yahoo.com))

At their August 20 meeting, the ECCC members were provided an overview of the 60th Street Sewer Project canyon tour. A summary of the project, observations from the tour, and current issues were discussed.

**Renegotiation Plan Revisions:** Please e-mail Rich if you would like to review the revised seed mixture plans for the canyon.

In review of the plans, "ryegrass," was from the access path was removed from the mix. Thanks to "Chuck Walrad" for pointing out the impacts of ryegrass on the access path. What residents adjoining the canyon would like to know is the rationale for the changes made and the expected impacts on the canyon. Does this mixture provide a more fire retardant solution; reduce soil erosion, or some other reason? Changing the number of seeds/plants does not explain why the changes were made nor the expected results. The residents would like to avoid canyon hazards the neighborhood will have to live with well after Cass Construction & the City complete this sewer project. The residents would appreciate an explanation of these changes.

### **Damage to neighbors' property during the Sewer Project:**

It appears that some of the retaining walls (pointed out during the canyon tours) were actually damaged during the construction. The City & Cass Construction reviewed the video tapes of the canyon prior to the construction & agreed that the damage was done once construction started. Steps are now being taken to remedy this. ***Residents are encouraged to review their properties for any other damage issues.***

As new developments occur, information will be passed along. If you have neighbors who are interested in receiving information, please have them forward an e-mail.

### **Upcoming ECCC Events in 2009**

- Thursday, September, 2009 – ECCC Meeting – Nuisance Rental Properties/Code Enforcement
- Saturday, September 10, 2009- ECCC Garage Sale

### **Local Area Meetings & Committee Groups**

**ECCC Meeting** - Third Thursday at 7:00 pm, Parish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito

**ECCC Board Meeting** - First Thursday at 7:00 pm, Library, Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito

**Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee** - Second Tuesday 7:00 pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 2725 55th St.

**College Area Community Council** – Second Wednesday at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library corner of Montezuma & Reservoir

**CACC Planning Committee** - First Wednesday at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library – Corner of Montezuma & Reservoir

**Crossroads Project Area Committee (PAC)** – Fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. College Avenue Baptist Church, 3rd floor, Administration Bldg, College Ave.